

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace paragraphs [14]-[16], [22], and [24] with the following amended paragraphs:

- [14] FIG. 1 is a flow chart showing processing of customer purchase orders by a hypothetical business in accordance with the prior art.
- [15] FIG. 2 is a table representing a portion of a database for a hypothetical business in accordance with the prior art.
- [16] FIG. 3 is a graph showing degradation in database system performance over time in accordance with the prior art.
- [22] The present invention can be advantageously used in combination with the methods, apparatus and systems described in U.S. Patent Application Ser. No. 10/157,968, titled "Support for Real-Time Queries Concerning Current State, Data and History of a Process" and filed on May 31, 2002, (Publication No. US-2003-0225769-A1, Publication Date: 12/04/2003) the contents of which are incorporated by reference herein.
- [24] The present invention will also be described by reference to RDBMS software (such as the aforementioned SQL SERVER™ 2000 software) operating on a server and accessed by one or more clients. Such configurations are known in the art and described in, e.g., the previously-incorporated U.S. patent application 10/157,968 (Publication No. US-2003-0225769-A1, Publication Date: 12/04/2003). However, a client-server configuration is only one example of a manner in which the invention can be

implemented. The invention can also be implemented in other physical system configurations.